**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Jim Hornby

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Joshua 24, Psalm 78)

L: God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**P: The Holy One inhabits all eternity and everything that is, or was, or ever will be.**

L: God is the source, guide, and goal of our lives.

**P: We acknowledge God as the center of our lives and of our world, not ourselves.**

L: We come today to worship God.

**P: We come with thanks and praise.**

L: Let us humble ourselves before God’s holy presence.

**P: May God teach us the ways of life as we pray.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Matthew 25, 1 Thessalonians 4)

In the stillness of this moment, awaken us to the astonishing truth that your love is like the celebratory love of a couple on their wedding day. Help us choose again to live in your love

and to yield every aspect of our lives to your divine rule. Amen.

**\***OPENING HYMN ***All Creatures of Our God and King*** UMH #62

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 78, Matthew 25, 1 Thessalonians 4)

**Christ Jesus, we want to believe in your kingdom—a kingdom that is already, but not yet, in our midst. It seems so far off as we bear our load of suffering and grief. Some days it’s easier to get discouraged and distracted, even to give in to the long, dark nights of our worries and fears. Sometimes it’s easier to grow numb and lose hope, even to forget we even know you. We want to trust that you haven’t forgotten us. We want to wake up and choose to live our lives inside the rule of your love. We want to hope. We want to offer wisdom and encouragement to the generations to come. But we need your help. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Matthew 25)

Beloved of Christ, get up and get dressed, it is time to go to a wedding! Trade your sweats for your fancy clothes. Kick off your well-worn sneakers and lace up your dancing shoes! Christ has already chosen you! Will you choose to live in Christ’s love?

We choose God’s saving love again. We choose holy joy for our lives. We choose the Risen Christ. Halleluia! Amen!

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Matthew 22)

Jesus said, “Give to God, what belongs to God.” We are God’s people, created in God’s image. Everything we are, and all that we have, comes from God. Out of gratitude for the abundance of God’s gifts, let us bring our offering in gratitude and praise.

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH #94

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE Luke 16:1-13

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. **2**So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ **3**“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— **4**I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ **5**“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ **6**“‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

**7**“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

**8**“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. **9**I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

**10**“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **11**So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12**And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

**13**“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

\*HYMN OF PRAISE  ***What Does the Lord Require of You***  TFWS #2174

SERMON ***Stewardship: God’s Investment for Your Life***  Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN ***We Are God’s People***  TFWS #2220

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation,

 and the World.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** Join us on November 22nd at 6:00 pm.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**: Currently ongoing to establish next year’s church budget.

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** Meal served by United Women in Faith at 5 pm.

**ADVENT SEASON BIBLE STUDY:** “Heaven and Earth” by Will Willimon with Video. 4 Sundays

 from Nov. 26 – Dec. 17. 10:30 am. Facilitator: Pastor Inwha. Contact the office for textbooks.

**PRE-CONFIRMATION MENTORS:** Looking for mentors for Pre-Confirmation students. If

 interested, contact Paula Voskuil at 920-562-1332.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift-giving or personal use, consider

 Scrip cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346. **USHER/GREETERS**: Tom and Lois Epps

**FELLOWSHIP:** Sunday School

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

 Tue Nov. 14 Worship/Ad Council 5:30 pm/6:30 pm

 Thu Nov. 30 Nomination & Leadership Committee 5:30 pm

**Bible Verse of the Week: 1 Timothy 2:1-2**

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers,*

*intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—*

*for kings and all those in authority,*

*that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*

**BLACK RIVER FALLS**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

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